

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 06017 061446Z

43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04

OC-06 CCO-00 PC-10 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 AGR-20 DRC-01

NIC-01 IO-14 ( ISO ) W

----- 051375

R 061410Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1294

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6017

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE INFO CALCUTTA, MADRAS FROM  
BOMBAY DTD MAY 6TH:

QUOTE: BOMBAY 1003

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB ETRN IN

SUBJ: RAILWAY STRIKE

1. FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, RAIL STRIKE HAS ALREADY STARTED  
IN WESTERN INDIA AS SERIOUS DISLOCATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO  
MAKE THEMSELVES FELT. SITUATION WITH RAILWAYS NEVER REALLY  
RETURNED TO NORMAL FOLLOWING BANDH AND WALK-OFFS MAY 3 AND THE  
CENTRAL AND WESTERN RAILWAYS HAVE MAINTAINED ONLY RESTRICTED  
SERVICES SINCE MAY 4. SUBURBAN TRAINS HAVE CONTINUED TO RUN,  
BUT AT GREATLY REDUCED RATE.

2. MANIBEN KARA ANNOUNCED MAY 4 THAT CENTRAL AND WESTERN  
RAILWAYS WILL COME TO HALT AT MIDNIGHT MAY 7, AND MOTORMEN AND  
GUARDS OF THOSE TWO RAILWAYS HAVE JOINTED IN DECISION TO STRIKE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 06017 061446Z

3. ON MAY 5 CHIEF MINISTER V P NAIK PRESIDED OVER MEETING

OF GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA AND BOMBAY PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE OFFICIALS CALLED TO DISCUSS WAYS OF HELPING COMMUTERS WHO NORMALLY TRAVEL BY TRAIN TO GET TO WORK. DECISION REPORTEDLY TAKEN TO RUN TRUCK AND PRIVATE BUS SERVICES FROM SUBURBS OF BORIVLI AND THANA INTO BOMBAY FOR COMMUTERS.

4. AN OPPOSITION MEETING INCLUDING LEADERS OF SOCIALIST PARTY, CPI, JANA SANGH AND CPM, WAS HELD IN BOMBAY LAST EVENING, MAY 5. SEVERAL THOUSAND ATTENDED (DR KULKARNI, CONGEN POL ANALYST WAS PRESENT). MAIN SPEAKERS WERE N G GORAY, SOCIALIST PARTY; S Y KOLHATKAR, CITU; G V CHITNIS, AITUC; KISHORE DESPANDE, BMS; S M JOSHI, COSIALIST, AND YESHWANT CHAVAN, SARVA SHRAMIK SANGH (RED FLAG). AITUC LEADER CHITNIS PRESIDED AND IN UNCOMPRISING TERMS ASSURED THAT THE CPI WOULD WHOLE-HEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE STRIKE. THIS CONTRADICTS EARLIER PREDICTION THAT CPI MIGHT WITHDRAW FROM STRIKE. MOREOVER, ALL LEADERS PRESENT INDICATED THEIR REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH GOI SO LONG AS FERNANDES IS IN JAIL. MORALE OF THOSE ATTENDING GATHERING APPEARED TO BE HIGH. THERE WAS NOT A DISCORDANT NOTE SOUNDED AND UNITY AMONG UNIONS SUPPORTING STRIKE APPEARED TO BE HIGH AS WELL.

5. PRESS REPORTS POLICE IN BOMBAY HAVE SO FAR ARRESTED 43 RAIL LEADERS UNDER MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL SECURITY ACT. THIRTY WORKERBKVESTED PREVIOUSLY ALREADY CONVICTED. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAS PROMULGATED ORDER UNDER SECTION 144 BANNING ASSEMBLY OF PERSONS AND PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN OR NEAR VITAL RAIL INSTALLATIONS AND ESTABLISHMENTS. TERRITORIAL ARMY UNITS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED IN AHMEDABAD AND BARODA DIVISIONS OF WESTERN RAILWAY TO MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES, WHERE STRIKE IS OSTENSIBLY ALREADY UNDERWAY.

6. MAHARAHSTRA STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE STRIKE AND ARE MAKING PLANS TO STRIKE THEMSELVES ON MAY 10. GENERAL SECRETARY OF B.E.S.T. WORKERS UNION (BEST RUNS BOMBAY'S BUS SERVICES AND RETAILS ELECTRIC POWER TO CONSUMERS) ANNOUNCED HIS WORKERS SUPPORT THE STRIKE OF RAIL WORKERS AND WARNED BEST WORKERS MAY BE COMPELLED LAUNCH AGITATION IF THEIR DEMANDS FOR A BONUS IS NOT MET. SIGNIFICANTLY GEORGE FERNANDES IS PRESIDENT OF BEST UNION AS WELL AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 06017 061446Z

MAHARASHTRA STATE TRANSPORT UNION. S R KULKARNI, PRES OF ALL INDIA PORT AND DOCK WORKERS FEDERATION, ISSUED STATEMENT MAY 5 URGING RAILWAYMEN TO POSTPONE STRIKE UNTIL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS. KULKARNI STATED HE SUPPORTS DEMANDS OF RAIL UNIONS BUT FEELS "GESTURE OF POSTPONING THE STRIKE WOULD CREATE A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE FOR AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT." HE ALSO APPEALED TO MRS GANDHI TO RELEASE THE ARRESTED LEADERS TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS.

7. IT SEEMS SAFE TO SAY THAT NOBODY REALLY KNOWS JUST HOW BAD IMPACT OF NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE ON FOOD SUPPLY IN BOMBAY. KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES HAVE TOLD US RUN ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF BOMBAY HAS MADE ANY CALCULATION OF PRESENT STOCKS IMPOSSIBLE THOUGH IT IS KNOWN THAT RICE STOCKS IN THE CITY ARE HEAVILY DEPLETED. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS INDICATE BOTH CENTRAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO MOVE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES BY TRUCKS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. BOMBAY'S MILK, MUCH OF WHICH COMES FROM GUJARAT, OBVIOUSLY WILL BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED, AS WELL SUPPLIES OF POULTRY, MEAT, EGGS, VEGETABLES AND FRUITS, MUST OF WHICH COME IN BY RAIL. FOR A CITY WHICH NORMALLY OPERATES WITH VERY THIN RESERVES, THE NEXT FEW DAYS COULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ONES. IN GUJARAT, WHERE SUPPLIES OF FUEL FOR ELECTRICITY PLANTS HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE THAN A FEW DAYS, CUTS ARE ALREADY BEING IMPOSED, WITH MORE IN THE OFFING.

8. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT AS DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR.  
BANE  
UNQUOTE. SCHNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LINE, RAILROADS, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974NEWDE06017  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740109-0242  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740571/aaaaclyq.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RAILWAY STRIKE  
**TAGS:** ELAB, ETRN, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005